

From: Wayne Cater
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 1:31pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear United States Department of Justice,

My name is Wayne Cater. I am a 34 year old computer programmer. Over the past 12+ years I have been fortunate enough to work in the computer field. I have a diverse background of experiences, but as most of the world I have largely made my living writing software that runs on the Microsoft Windows platforms. When the antitrust suite first came up, I supported Microsoft. Then I had a perspective change.

I personally don't live in one of the 'high technical meccas' of our great land, but I realized that many of the small businesses that used to be around are gone largely because Microsoft decided to include very similar products as part of the Operating System installation. I thought about my family budget. To cut costs and save money, I would take a free package over a purchasable one in most cases. A little late, but better than never - I have realized that Microsoft's actions have stifled creativity in the market. Yes, a larger number of folks are enjoying the functionality / possibilities of the Personal Computer, but revenue that could have been more diversly dispensed across the market and country, has gone into one coffer - Microsoft's Account.

My perspective change has caused me to largely take action. I am moving to Linux desktop product development and to non Microsoft Web based development. While this is not a quick, nor easy move, I am willing to risk the time to prove that it will be better in the long run.

My one recommendation would be to force Microsoft to pay for hardware for poor schools and to set up an account in which money could be given to school districts to purchase operating systems and software packages that it would prefer. Please consider my recommendation.

Respectfully,

Wayne
bwcater@att.net